

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 EUR-25 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 PPT-02

SCA-01 SCS-03 INT-08 OPIC-12 RSR-01 /170 W

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R 091327Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0280

INFO USINT CAIRO

AMZMBASSY TUNIS 1931

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TRIPOLI 0897

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR LY

SUBJECT: TOUR D'HORIZON WITH SENIOR MFA OFFICIAL

REF: TRIPOLI 0788

SUMMARY: JULY 9 CHARGE HAD HOUR'S TALK WITH SHAYBANI, MFA'S DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS. PROBABLY NOTHING WILL COME OF IT, BUT SUBJECTS COVERED WERE NATIONALIZATION OF BUNKER HUNT (SEPTTEL), OLDER CASES OF NATIONALIZATION, THE CONFISCATION OF UNION CHURCH, THE USUAL ME ISSUES, PROBLEMS OF ACCESS TO LARG DECISION-MAKERS, AND INEVITABLY THE PASSPORTS IMBROGLIO. END SUMMARY.

1. IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST I MADE JULY 7 TO CALL ON ACTING FONMIN OBEIDI, PROTOCOL JULY 9 GAVE ME APPOINTMENT WITH NAJIB SHAYBANI, MFA'S DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, THE REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE AMERICAS AND EUROPE.

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2. OPENING, I EXPRESSED PLEASURE THAT SHAYBANI ATTEND-

ED MY 4TH OF JULY PARTY (THE ONLY LARG OFFICIAL TO DO SO, BUT PAR FOR THE COURSE). THEN SAID I ALWAYS HAPPY TO MEET WITH HIM BUT HAD ALSO HOPED MEET HIGHER OFFICIALS. SHAYBANI SAID HE STILL TRYING TO GET ME APPOINTMENT WITH RCC MEMBER AND MINISTER OF INTERIOR HUMAYDI.

3. CONTINUING, I OBSERVED THAT WHAT I HAD PROPOSED TO SAY TO OBEIDI FOLLOWED CLOSELY WHAT I HAD SAID TO SHAYBANI ON JUNE 10 (REFTEL). SUMMARIZING, THAT WE COULD WORK TOGETHER FOR BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND BETTER RELATIONS, AND THAT THIS SHOULD BE POSSIBLE DESPITE OUR DIFFERENCES OVER ME SITUATION. SHAYBANI AGREED TO FIRST POINT, WAS NON-COMMITTAL ON SECOND. I THEN PROCEEDED TO RECAP MY PREVIOUS CONTENTIONS WITH HIM THAT OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS HAD BEEN HARMED BY "MISTAKEN IDEAS AND FALSE ACCUSATIONS" SUCH AS THOSE OCCASIONALLY EXPRESSED OVER PAST SIX MONTHS BY COL. QADHAFI. FOR INSTANCE, THAT "AMERICA IS CHALLENGING THE ARABS" AND THAT "THE BATTLE IS UNDERWAY" BETWEEN LIBYA AND THE U.S. SHAYBANI, WHO INSISTED ON HAVING A NOTE-TAKER PRESENT, REPLIED THAT OF COURSE HIS MINISTRY STOOD BY ANY STATEMENTS OF HIS COUNTRY'S CHIEF OF STATE -- BUT LET IT GO AT THAT. I REPLIED, "FINE, I WILL PICK UP THAT POINT LATER ON."

4. THEN SAID THERE WERE ALSO ACTIONS, BUT MERELY WORDS, WHICH HARMED OUR RELATIONS. REFERRED BRIEFLY TO INCIDENT OF LARG PLANES SHOOTING AT USG PLANE, THEN BORED IN ON LARG NATIONALIZATIONS OF AMERICAN PRIVATE PROPERTIES. SAID HE SHOULD BE AWARE THERE WERE AT LEAST SEVEN OLD CASES OF LARG NATIONALIZATION IN WHICH NOT ONE CENT OF COMPENSATION PAID. THIS MATTER HAD BEEN TAKEN UP AT HIGHEST LEVELS, BY AMB PALMER WITH MAJOR JALLUD, AND A FOLLOW-UP NOTE SENT OVER YEAR AGO, SO FAR WITHOUT REPLY. I REQUESTED A REPLY. SHAYBANI WAS AWARE OF THIS ISSUE AS I HAD SENT HIM A COPY OF OUR NOTE OF JUNE 6, 1972, UNDER COVER OF A LETTER JUNE 14, 1973 -- BUT HE HAD NO ANSWER OTHER THAN THAT THESE THINGS TAKE TIME.

5. CONCENTRATED NEXT ON CASE OF UNION CHURCH CONFISCATION. CONFIDENTIAL

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TION, LAYING EMPHASIS ON LACK OF ANY GIVEN REASON, OR OF ANY EXPLANATION RE RIGHTS OF APPEAL OR COMPENSATION, THEN ON DENIAL OF RIGHTS OF WORSHIP. SHAYBANI, WHO HAD NO BACKGROUND ON THIS CASE, TRIED TO ARGUE THAT LEGAL POSITION OF PROPERTIES ON GOVT LAND WAS NOT CLEAR GENERALLY AND SO I SHOULD TAKE MATTER UP WITH NEW HEAD OF LEGAL DEPT. I SAID WE WOULD, BUT MEANWHILE MY REQUEST WAS TO SET HIM WORKING ON CASE. I HANDED SHAYBANI A COPY OF

CHURCH'S LETTER TO QADHAFI OF FEBRUARY 3. ALSO WORKED IN A STRONG PROTEST, AGAIN, THAT USG RECEIVED NO COMPENSATION FOR THE 1969 BALFOUR DAY MOB ATTACK ON THE CHANCERY, DESPITE INNUMERABLE REMINDERS AND PROMISES.

6. THE NEXT SUBJECT I INTRODUCED AS THE PROXIMATE REASON FOR MY REQUEST TO SEE ACTING MINISTER -- PRESENTATION OF OUR NOTE OF JULY 5 ON NATIONALIZATION OF BUNKER HUNT OIL COMPANY. WILL REPORT ON DISCUSSION THIS SUBJECT BY SEPTTEL.

7. THAT DISCUSSION LED SHAYBANI TO REMARK AGAIN THAT MFA STOOD BY ALL QADHAFI'S STATEMENTS -- IN THIS CASE THOSE MADE WHILE ANNOUNCING NATIONALIZATION OF BH ON JUNE 11. SHAYBANI JUSTIFIED THEM BY EXTENDED REFERENCES TO PLIGHT OF PALESTINIANS, U.S. AID TO ISRAEL, FAILURE TO SOLVE ME PROBLEM FOR 25 YEARS, ETC. I THEREFORE OBSERVED THAT, IN EFFECT, SHAYBANI WAS SAYING U.S. AND LIBYA COULD NOT HAVE NORMAL RELATIONS BECAUSE OF OUR DIFFERENCES OVER ME ISSUES. HE HEDGED IN REPLY TO THAT, SAYING LIBYA STILL HOPED FAINTLY THAT USG MIGHT FINALLY DO SOMETHING EFFECTIVE TO BRING ABOUT PEACE IN ME WITH JUSTICE TO THE PALESTINIANS. I REPLIED WE WERE STILL TRYING, MORE THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY, BUT QADHAFI PUBLICLY DERIDED ANY SUCH EFFORTS AND COULD BE QUOTED AS CALLING FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ANY ISRAELI PRESENCE IN THE ME. SHAYBANI SEEMED A BIT EMBARRASSED AND CONTENTED THAT IF THE 1967 TERRITORIES WERE RESTORED "ALL ARABS WOULD BE SATISFIED."

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ACTION AF-18

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PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0281
INFO USINT CAIRO
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TRIPOLI 0897

8. SEVERAL TIMES SHAYBANI HINTED THAT "RECOGNITION OF ARABIC" WAS ALSO AN ISSUE BETWEEN US. I FINALLY REPLIED TARTLY THAT THIS WAS NOT SO AT ALL: WE RECOGNIZED LARG PASSPORTS PRINTED ONLY IN ARABIC AS SOON AS THEY CAME OUT. WE TRAINED FS ARABISTS AND MY EMBASSY HAD JUST LOST TWO OF THEM AS A RESULT SOLELY OF LARG ACTIONS -- PERHAPS BECAUSE THEY KNEW ARABIC. THE ONE PERSON OF THE EMBASSY WHO WAS RECEIVING FAIRLY CLOSE ATTENTION FROM PLAINCOTHESMEN ON THE STREETS WAS MY WIFE, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE SHE IS KNOWN TO KNOW ARABIC. SOMEWHAT TAKEN ABACK, BUT NOT OVERLY, SHAYBANI SAID THAT NEVERTHELESS NEARLY ALL OTHER COUNTRIES REPRESENTED HERE NOW USE ARABIC IN THEIR PASSPORTS; I AND MY GOVERNMENT WERE BEING RATHER STUBBORN, BOTH IN GENERAL AND ABOUT THIS IN PARTICULAR. I SAID, "YES, WE BELIEVE THAT, AS COL. QADHAFI SAID, YOUR GOVT HAS NO RIGHT TO ASK FOR ANOTHER GOVT TO USE ARABIC IF ITS PASSPORTS ARE PRINTED ONLY IN ITS NATIONAL LANGUAGE." I THEN STOOD UP TO LEAVE.

9. SHAYBANI SAID AS WE PARTED THAT HE WOULD KEEP TRYING FOR AN RCC APPOINTMENT. WE AGREED THAT, MEAN-
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WHILE, OUR FRANK TALKS WERE USEFUL AND SHOULD BE CONTINUED.

10. COMMENT: ON THE BASIS OF PAST PERFORMANCE AT MFA, ONE COULD HARDLY EXPECT ANYTHING TO COME OF THIS TALK. HOWEVER, IF WE KEEP TRYING ON OCCASION TO HOLD A PRODUCTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE LARG, THE GROUNDWORK WILL BE LAID WHEN ONE BECOMES POSSIBLE. THAT MAY BE SOONER THAN COMMONLY ASSUMED IF LEADERSHIP CHANGES SHOULD OCCUR. AS IT IS NOW, NO ONE IS A FREE AGENT BUT QADHAFI HIMSELF.
JOSIF

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